

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS  
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# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## IMB's Eliff hints at vision for agency

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — Tom Elliff, in his first trustee meeting as president of International Mission Board (IMB), rolled out the beginning of the vision he believes "God painted on my heart."

Trustees elected a new vice president during their May 20 meeting at the International Learning Center in Rockville, Va., and were asked to pray for the final results of the 2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Trustees also approved 48 new missionaries. On May 22 at Mandarin Church in Los Angeles, 26 of those missionaries were appointed. The other 22 will be appointed during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting on June 15 in Phoenix.

Elliff, in a brief preview of his IMB report to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 15, shared his vision that each of the remaining 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups would be "embraced" by a Southern Baptist church committed to seeing that people group engaged with the Gospel.

"I pray within 12 months of our Southern Baptist Convention that we will see all 3,800 of those unengaged people groups with some church saying, 'We've taken them on. We are reaching out embracing them. We're going to learn about them. We're going to pray over them. We're going to strategize,'" Elliff said.

"Our goal is to one day have boots on the ground [among them] sharing the Gospel, and that's an exciting prospect."

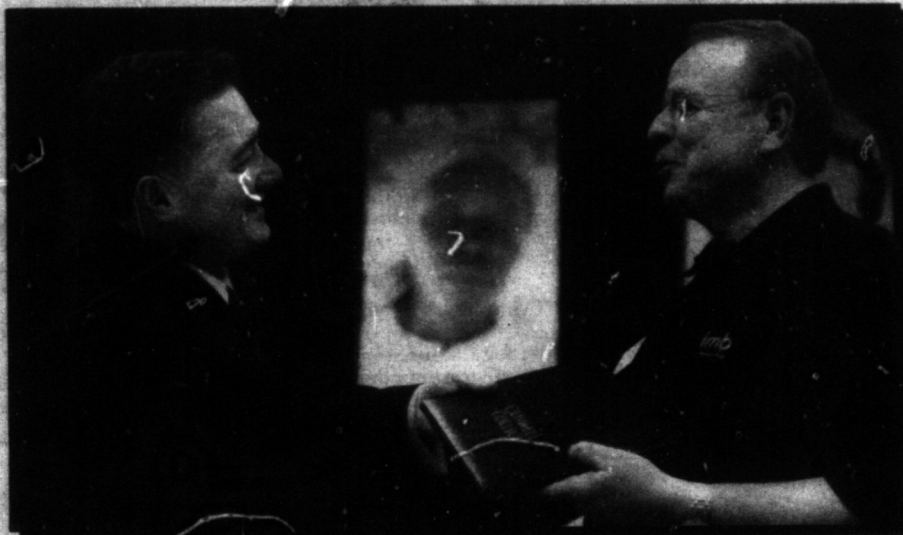
Elliff also noted how the IMB needs to be more aggressive in facilitating younger generations of pastors and churches that desire to reach the nations. He affirmed that the mission board has significant value to "bring to the table" to a new generation of pastors that will benefit local churches and create fresh awareness of the SBC.

"God is developing a fresh generation of pastors and churches that really take their faith seriously," Elliff said. "They are disciplined students of the Bible. They are driven by a remarkable passion to ensure the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

"It would be foolish for us to assume that those pastors and churches are simply going to choose to be Southern Baptist as a default position. It is to this generation of pastors and church members that we must newly introduce ourselves. We must offer them compelling evidence that being a Southern Baptist and doing missions through IMB is scripturally based, it is spiritually empowered, and it is fiscally responsible."

"I think this is a legitimate request on their part, and it deserves legitimate attention on our part. We will accept that challenge."

To emphasize the role of sound theology as the basis in all that the IMB does, and to provide teaching that will connect it to these and other churches and pastors, trustees unanimously elected Chuck Lawless as vice president for global theological advance.



**NEW SCHOLARSHIP** — Jerry Johnson (left), president of Criswell College in Dallas, passes to International Mission Board (IMB) President Tom Elliff the school's first full-tuition scholarship to be given to a student with IMB missionary parents. Johnson announced the new scholarship, exclusively for all incoming students with IMB missionary parents, will take effect in the fall of 2011. (BP photo)

Since 2008, Lawless has served as a consultant for global theological education for IMB while continuing in his position as vice president and dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He will now serve full-time with IMB, beginning June 1.

In this role, Lawless will provide theological leadership and guidance to the IMB and its personnel, while helping strengthen its ties with SBC churches, seminaries and other partnering organizations.

"Chuck brings so many things to the table, especially in terms of acquainting a whole new generation of young pastors and churches with our story, [IMB] and why we're here and how we can serve them," Elliff said.

Reporting on the IMB's 2010 financial statements, David Stevenson, vice president for finance, asked trustees to pray as the organization awaits the final results of the 2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The books close May 31.

"I'm asking each of you to pray to the Lord of the Harvest over these next two weeks as we receive the final receipts," Stevenson said. "We need significant funds to come in over these last days to reach what we have in the 2011 operating budget."

This past year, as a result of reduced funding, the IMB lowered its missionary force from more than 5,600 to just under 5,000. The offering goal is \$175 million.

"Please join me in prayer over these next couple of weeks that we would all be amazed at what the Lord has done," Stevenson said.

Despite sobering news on the economic front, trustees rose to their feet in applause when Jerry Johnson, president of Criswell College of Dallas, announced four-year, full-

tuition scholarships exclusively for incoming students with IMB missionary parents.

"At Criswell College, the Great Commission is more than a slogan to us," Johnson said. "It's a part of our DNA. It's who we are. Because we are asking these missionaries to leave what we call the American dream, to sell everything they have, to leave grandma and grandpa... we can hold the rope in a better way."

The gift represents how Criswell College and other Baptist colleges and universities have shown their love and commitment to overseas missions, Elliff said, voicing appreciation for schools "that would step up to the plate and say, 'We so value the fulfillment of the Great Commission that we're willing to give a full-tuition scholarship for four years to the students of those missionaries.'"

In other business, IMB trustees:

- reported \$2,592,956 of human need-related funds was used to help support more than 100 projects overseas in February and March.

- approved the rewording of a ministry statement to affirm IMB work alongside the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups in the U.S. and Canada.

The change is in response to the Great Commission Resurgence report that was approved at last year's SBC annual meeting. IMB trustees first took action a month later on recommendations from the report. The SBC Executive Committee will review the newly revised statement in June.

- re-elected by acclamation Jimmy Pritchard, pastor of First Church in Forney, Texas, as board chairman and Tim Locher, a retired pilot from Hendersonville, N.C., as first vice chairman.





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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## Got a spare \$19.25 million?

**Yawn.** Here we go again: "Have you heard? Proctor and Gamble is full of Satan worshippers. The company president said so, on television! Don't believe it? Just look at their logo!"

A statement similar to that is going to cost four Utah residents \$19.25 million. That's the amount Proctor and Gamble, the nation's largest consumer products company, has been awarded by a federal jury in Salt Lake City.

Unless you have a similar amount of money from which you don't mind soon being parted, perhaps you should take heed.

First of all, the age-old rumor about Satanism, Proctor and Gamble, and its famous moon-and-stars logo is a lie. Pure and simple. If you repeat it, you're a liar. If you're a Christian and you repeat it, you'd better check up on what the Bible has to say about false witness.

The mess in Utah began when Randy L. Haugen circulated another person's Satanism rumor about Proctor and Gamble through an automated phone message system. As distribution of the rumor multiplied beyond anything Haugen probably could have imagined, a version of it inevitably turned up at Proctor and Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Companies take their public image seriously. "This is about protecting our reputation," Jim Johnson, Proctor and Gamble's chief legal counsel, told Associated Press.

Another rumor that never seems to die is the old saw that the late, famed atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hare is working to get all Christian programming removed from television. Again, not true. Such a feat would be hard to accomplish from the grave.

The latest variation of the endless O'Hare tale involves James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family. So rampant is



that rumor that the Focus on the Family web site carries a special disclaimer that Dobson and Focus on the Family are not involved in any way in authenticating and distributing the O'Hare rumor.

Simply put, you can't believe everything you hear and read — especially on the Internet. It is a rare week that the offices of The Baptist Record fail to receive a frantic e-mail or phone call about the latest threat to Christianity. All of them — all — turn out to be rumors.

Christians should be smarter than that. It does not elevate our Kingdom work nor glorify our Savior to spread baseless rumors and indulge ear-tickling lies. Such behavior actually diminishes our witness by proving that we're no different than the world when it comes to truth, gossip, and rumor-mongering.

This is especially the case when there are so many ways open to us to check out these rumors. The first way is to visit the company's web site or call their toll-free customer service telephone number. Chances are, you won't be the first call they receive.

Secondly, there are many good Internet sites (not necessarily Christian) that research and refute such rumors. Two such sites are [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), and <http://urban-legends.about.com>. Anyone with a computer and two minutes of free time can avail themselves of these free services.

Thirdly, the mass media are frequently full of articles and reports that explode these rumors. All we need to do is pay attention.

Don't fall for these rumors, some of which are undoubtedly designed and promulgated by detractors with the intention of making Christians look bad. Any amount of time we devote to such fruitless activities takes away from the time we could be accomplishing Kingdom work.

If we're not focused on Jesus and Kingdom work, then why are we Christians?

## GUEST OPINION:



### Steps to church recovery process

By Steven Newton  
Nashville

honored and respected as the church looks forward to a bright and healthy future with improved, effective facilities.

Arrange for an alternate meeting place, if required, which will maintain a semblance of normalcy and at the same time reinforce a sense of embarkation upon a new chapter in church life and history.

Consider the interim situation carefully, because the restoration process often takes longer than originally expected.

Wise church leaders will assemble a support team to provide assistance and guidance in assessing replacement value, negotiating an insurance settlement, and developing a facilities design and construction strategy with a long-range perspective in mind.

Negotiating a fair and favorable insurance settlement requires patience, thoroughness, and expertise. Be aware that insurance settlements should include provisions for upgrading existing conditions

that are non-compliant with current codes and require remediation for permitting and construction. This can include handicapped accessibility and toilet fixture counts. Wind loading and seismic force structural requirements have changed in recent years and should be considered as well.

Include architectural and engineering fees in your replacement costs, as they will likely be required. Make sure to include items from your previous building, such as thickset tile, copper flashing, solid hardwood flooring, paneling, trim, or wainscot in your replacement costs even if they are not included in the proposed new construction.

Contents coverage and temporary facilities costs can be part of the settlement and are typically additional to the policy's defined replacement value.

Email is an effective and efficient tool to assist in thorough documentation critical to your settlement. Beware of accepting the first offer from the church's

insurer and work to leave the settlement as open-ended as possible for unforeseen costs which may arise.

As soon as a general idea of insurance proceeds can be projected, begin to formulate a plan to allocate them in a way that can best serve the future ministry needs and goals. Avoid the temptation and immediate emotional response to "put everything back the way it was" if that is not in the best interest of the church.

With the assistance of the support team, develop a strategy for rebuilding the church facilities in the manner that is most advantageous to the church. Building Momentum, a book by Gary Nicholson, can be a valuable resource guide for church leaders and building team members. Develop a new master plan for the restoration and for future facilities and clarify the church's vision for ministry in the community.

Cherish the memories and celebrate the positives, the victories, and the milestones along the way, positioning the church for a healthy and hopeful outlook and preparing the way for future generations.

Newton is an architectural consultant with more than 20 years of church facility planning and design experience at LifeWay Architecture. He may be contacted at [steve.newton@lifeway.com](mailto:steve.newton@lifeway.com). His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

## Pakistan pushing blasphemy on children

ISTANBUL (BP) — Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws can put even children at risk, and Christians say the days when they could teach their offspring pat answers to protect them from accusations of disparaging Islam or its prophet seem to have passed.

A 30-year-old Pakistani woman who grew up in Lahore said her Christian parents taught her formula answers to keep from falling prey to accusations under the blasphemy statutes, such as "I am a Christian, I can only tell you about Him," but even then, before militant Islamists began influencing Pakistani society as they have in recent years, schoolchildren were taught not to discuss religion, she said.

"We knew never to get into religious discussions with others," she said. "We had them at home — our parents would put us through the drill of asking us tough questions to see how we answered. Only now I realize that was practice for school."

In this way, she was imbued with the fundamentals of the Christian faith and at the same time learned that she should discuss it only with her parents, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Though the Christian faith is inherently evangelistic, the blasphemy laws have made people silent, she added.

The blasphemy statutes signal to non-Muslims that they are second-class or "dhimmi" status citizens who must stay within narrow social boundaries, leave, or be killed, she said.

"Christians constantly face questions like, 'What do you think of the Quran, do you like it?' and, 'What do you think of Muhammad?'" she said. "One answer is, 'As a Christian I have only read the Bible, I can't read Arabic.' These questions used to be easier to answer. We had formulas but those are not working any more. We just tell children 'Don't talk about religion in school.' This is shaky ground now."

"Some parents don't even tell their children about Jesus, because they are scared they will... say something wrong. One street kid did not know anything except about the blasphemy law. When her mother was asked why she did not teach her daughter about Jesus instead of the blasphemy law, she replied, 'If I tell her too much, she will talk about it on the street, and someone will kill her or charge her with blasphemy.'"

The street child, she said, was afraid to tell her what church she attended. "She said the mullah in the shop behind us was listening, and as she said that, I saw the man nearly fall off his chair from trying to listen to us," she said.

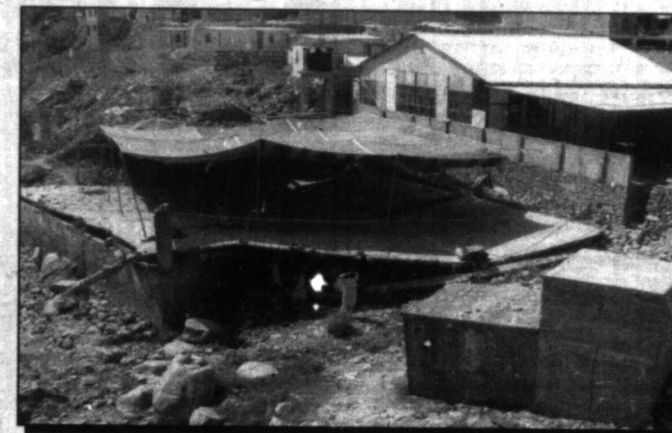
Christians are concerned an entire generation is growing up not knowing their faith for fear that it will lead to potentially disastrous schoolyard talk. Moreover, children required to take Islamic studies in school are in danger with a single misstep.

"If they write anything or misspell anything to do with the prophet Muhammad, they can be in serious danger," the source said. "In fact, the other side of this is that they are made to answer questions saying what a wonderful man he was."

Christian kids in predominantly Muslim areas don't have friends with whom to play, as even a cricket game can be risky, she said. Adults are equally fearful. "People in offices are silenced into submission. The fear is creating aggression."

Conviction under Section 295-C of Pakistan's blasphemy law for derogatory comments about Muhammad is punishable by death, though life imprisonment is also possible. Curiously, accusers in blasphemy cases cannot repeat the alleged derogatory comments without risk of being accused of blasphemy themselves.

A district court judge last November stunned the nation and the international community by handing down a death sentence to a Christian mother of five for allegedly speaking ill



**QUICK REPLACEMENT** — A tent in Balakot, Pakistan, serves as a temporary mosque where the original mosque stood before an earthquake hit the area. Cleansing before prayers takes place in a small stream beneath the broken building. (BP photo)

of Muhammad. Subsequently, three politicians spoke out against the blasphemy law that put Asia Noreen (also called Asia Bibi) in prison. Two of them have been killed for standing up for Noreen and against the blasphemy law. One is in hiding for fear of her life.

Noreen, mother of two children and stepmother to three others, has been in prison in solitary confinement since June 2009, accused of having blasphemed against Muhammad after a verbal disagreement with some women in the village of Iltanwali, near Lahore.

If she is released from prison, her life will be at risk. Her husband and children are on the run, receiving constant threats from Muslims who say they will take justice into their own hands.

Suspected Islamic militants in Faisalabad shot dead two Christians about to be acquitted of blasphemy charges on July 19, 2010. The Rev. Rashid Emmanuel, 32, and his 30-year-old brother Sajid Emmanuel were shot days after handwriting experts on July 14 notified police that signatures on papers denigrating Muhammad did not match those of the accused.

Expected to be exonerated, the two leaders of United Ministries Pakistan were being led in handcuffs under police custody back to jail when they were shot.

Christian Lawyers' Foundation President Khalid Gill said the two bodies bore cuts and other signs of having been tortured, including marks on their faces, while the brothers were in police custody.

For secular-educated Pakistanis, the blasphemy law has come to symbolize the measure to which militant Islam has overtaken society. In the span of three months, Islamists murdered two of the nation's most outspoken leaders against the blasphemy law.

On Jan. 4 Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab Province, was murdered. On March 2, parliamentarian Shabaz Bhatti, who as federal minister for minority affairs was the only Christian cabinet member, was assassinated in Islamabad.

Pakistan is moving increasingly towards a state driven by fear of militants, where even moderate politicians make conservative choices to appease Islamist threats, according to Sara Taseer Shoaib, daughter of the late Taseer.

"Pakistan is definitely becoming more right-wing and extremist when it comes to religion," she said. "Religious parties are gaining a cult following, and even moderate leaders are trying to gain popularity and votes by taking a right-wing position."

## Looking back

10 years ago

A new pier is dedicated at Gulfshore Assembly near Pass Christian. Volunteers were used for a significant portion of the pier's construction. The pier extends 340 feet into the Bay of St. Louis.

20 years ago

President George H. W. Bush responds to an invitation from Southern Baptist Convention leaders and agrees to address the closing session of the convention's annual meeting June 6 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

50 years ago

Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, tells New Orleans Seminary graduates at their 43rd annual commencement that "there are many prices to pay in being a true and faithful follower of the Lord Jesus."



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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UAK EWNLN UANFW-  
PHAY NUHK LAXT  
XRWS, XRWQ XRUX  
UPW FRTOW AWWK  
ATX U- CRQNHUUA;  
VLX XRWQ XRUX UPW  
NHIM.  
OLMW JHZW: XRHPXQ-  
TAW

Clue: U = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezra Seven: Ten

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### HALF ON AND HALF OFF

It was early one morning and I was traveling across the state to speak at one of our churches. Driving down one of our two-lane highways, I saw a glimpse of some blinking blue lights way up the road. Mind you, they were in front of me and not behind me. I knew that either something had happened or someone had been stopped. I slowed down not knowing if I was coming upon a wreck, license checkpoint, or what. Then I saw the problem. An 18-wheeler traveling down the same two-lane highway apparently decided to turn around. The driver had pulled off on a little gravel area on the side of the road and about half way off the road, the truck had gotten stuck. Half of the 18-wheeler was in the middle of the highway and the other half was hanging off the side of the road. He was in a predicament because being half on and half off the road, he was going nowhere.

A huge wrecker had been brought to the scene and apparently, they were trying to figure out what to do next. Do you pull, push, or unhitch the truck from the trailer? Regardless of what their decision would be, it was going to take some work to get this truck back in service. I sat there for a couple of minutes waiting on the officers to wave me on through. I thought about how many times we as believers get in the same shape as that 18-wheeler.

I thought about Simon Peter at the very last hours of



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Jesus' life when the soldiers had come and arrested Him. As the soldiers were dealing harshly with Jesus, the Scripture says, "Peter followed a far off." In a sense, you can see Peter as he is spiritually pulling off on the side of the road whenever he denied Jesus. Peter was in a quandary wanting to follow Jesus but not wanting to get too close, so he is about half on and half off.

You may know someone who it seems as though they want to be close enough to Jesus to at least give them some sense of security in case life should suddenly end. On the other hand, they do not want to get too involved with Him because He might call them to serve with the totality of who they are. Throughout His ministry, Jesus dealt with folks like us. He continually called people and reminded them to give their all. In a sense, He was not just asking for more but He was also trying to deliver them from living in the awkward situation of being half on and half off like the 18-wheeler.

As I watched the 18-wheeler as they tried to get it out of its sticky situation, I thought of a lady who was somewhat fearful of getting

on an escalator. She just did not like those moving steps and especially the process of getting on and getting off. One day at the mall being coaxed by her daughters, she agreed to try to get on the escalator. She walked up to the edge where the steps were going down. She watched the steps, carefully wanting to take a step and jump on to the step and land correctly, but she only stepped with one foot. The other foot was planted firmly on the solid floor. Now she was hopping on with one foot and would not let go to move the other foot on to the escalator. I guess that probably all of us have been at that point in our spiritual walk when God is trying to lead us in a new direction or to do what may be a difficult thing. We come to understand it is best, it is right, and God is guiding us, but we find it so awkward and difficult to let go and step on and off to the decision that God would have us to make.

While for the lady at the escalator it was no laughing matter, for those who were watching it was a somewhat

hilarious picture. When it comes to great spiritual decisions, getting stuck half on and half off is neither fun nor funny, so what are we to do as God leads us along? Generally, it would be important for us to remember, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all of your might" (Eccl. 9:10a). Do what God asks you to do robustly and enthusiastically. He is worthy of that. How do you go about doing that? Give it all to God. Whatever He wants you to do, just turn it all over to Him. For those of you who may have questions, doubts, and uneasiness, if God is guiding you to do something give it your all. If your doubts cause you to think, "What if I fail. What if I falter?" think about the wise thought that someone came up with that is expressed in the idea that it is far better to attempt great things and fail than to do nothing and succeed.

So it was that Simon Peter had the glorious privilege and the wonderful joy of seeing God pour out the most incredible blessings you can imagine on the Day of Pentecost, because he gave the Lord his all. No longer walking or following "a far off," he was possessed and even obsessed with giving Jesus his all. May God help each one of us to do that same thing so that He can use us and pour out His blessings through us today.

The author can be contacted at jfufural@mbcb.org.

## OBITUARY

Dan B. Wright, retired pastor, died March 4 at the Community Hospice House in Verona. Wright has pastored College, Sabougla, and Blythe Creek Churches in Choctaw County; Macedonia in Winston County, and South Corinth in Alcorn County. He had also served as director of missions for Choctaw Association where he regularly led mission trips to build churches in Montana, South Dakota, and Ecuador, SA. At the time of his death Wright, his wife Linda Parker Wright, and their granddaughter, Madison, resided in Corinth where they were members of East Corinth Church. Funeral services and burial were conducted March 6 at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Big Creek, Calhoun County.

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**Wellington Associates, Inc.**



1. Courtney Evans



2a. Scooba Church, Scooba



2b. Scooba Church, Scooba



3. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale

## Camp Lakeside 2011

Children and youth are invited to join in a 4-day week of Christ-focused camp—Camp Lakeside. Camp opens June 13 and runs each week (excluding week of July 4) through July 22 offering 4 weeks of overnight camp for those having completed grades 1-12 and one week of Day Camp for those having completed grades K-5. Activities include worship, music, missions, devotions, crafts, sports, and more. Counselors provided. Overnight camps run Monday through Thursday.

Grades 1-3 = June 13-16  
Grades 4-6 = June 20-23  
Grades 7-12 = June 27-30

Grades 2-6 = July 11-14  
Day Camp K-5 = July 18-22

Cost: Overnight Camp = \$115 per week (\$100 for additional child, same family); Day Camp = \$60  
Facilities: cypress cabins, dining hall, chapel, activities center/gym, prayer garden, swimming pool, hiking trails, 5-acre sports field, outdoor pavilion, and 60 acres of nature-filled woods.

FOR REGISTRATION INFO please contact Troy or Cori Smith at 662-647-2834

Founded in 1960, Lakeside Baptist Assembly/Camp Lakeside is owned and operated by North Central Baptist Association, Inc. with facilities located approximately 10 miles south of Charleston, MS, in a serene and beautifully wooded area of rural Tallahatchie County. Contact NCBA: 662-226-5071 (M-Th; 8:30 am - 4:30 pm).

## BIBLE DRILLS

1. **Raymond Road Church, Jackson**, recognizes Courtney Evans for achieving first place in the State Bible Drill Junior High Selection Tournament.

2. **Scooba Church, Scooba** recognizes Libba Dudley, 5th grader, also scored excellent in state competition (photo 2a). They also recognize their youth Bible drillers: Sarah Dudley, Anna Dudley, Mason Reynolds, and Megan Reynolds, shown with leader Kathy Howard (photo 2b).

3. **Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale**, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Shown are Colton Brannan, Sheldon Herrington, Hunter Brannan, and Jordan Pitts.

4. **Belden Church, Belden**, recognizes youth Bible driller Cassidy Blaylock.

5. **Drew Church, Drew**, recognizes its Bible drillers who all scored superior at the State Bible Drill. Shown, from right, are Arin McIntyre, Matthew Rogers, Nathan Barnett, Presley Beck, Lane Andrews, and Mary Kathryn Kittrell.

6. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, recognizes its children's Bible drillers, photo 6a, and its youth Bible drillers, photo 6b.



4. Blaylock



5. Drew Church, Drew



6a. Fredonia Church, New Albany, children



6b. Fredonia Church, New Albany, youth

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# MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



2. Liberty Church, Carroll County



3. Longino Church, Philadelphia



4a. New Hebron Church, New Hebron



4b. New Hebron Church, New Hebron

1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing June 18, 6 p.m., featuring Delta Blue.

2. Liberty Church, Carroll County, recognized mothers in attendance May 8. Shown are Emily Hammons with daughter Zoey, youngest mother; Blanch Dubard, oldest mother; and Mary Lou Dubard, having the most family members present. Gary Janney, pastor.

3. Longino Church, Philadelphia had over 80 volunteers performing cleanup in the aftermath of the tornado that ripped through their community. The volunteers went door to door offering help in any way they could. Shown are some of the participants. Matt White, pastor.

4. New Hebron Church, New Hebron, held a tea party and GA recognition service May 4. Shown, photo 4a, are the 1st-3rd grade GA's; photo 4b, the 4th-6th grade GA's.

5. Joseph Sansing, right, pastor of New Bethel Church, Carroll County, and George Smith, left, back to camera, former pastor of Carrollton Church, Carroll County, were among those offering prayers during the National Day of Prayer event May 5 at the Carroll County Courthouse.

6. Branch Church, Morton, held their annual Easter egg hunt. Shown are the participants.

7. The choir of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, presented the musical Arise, My Love Easter Sunday under the direction of Danny Creel. Hal Hatten, pastor. Shown are the participants.

8. The Mission Friends of First Church, Philadelphia, are shown with their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Banks. Shown, back row, are Jordan Kabore, Layla Loper, Gracie Tucker, and Carline Cheatham. Front row, Anna Beth Kilgore and Rayleigh Parkinson.



5. Carroll County National Day of Prayer



6. Branch Church, Morton



7. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto



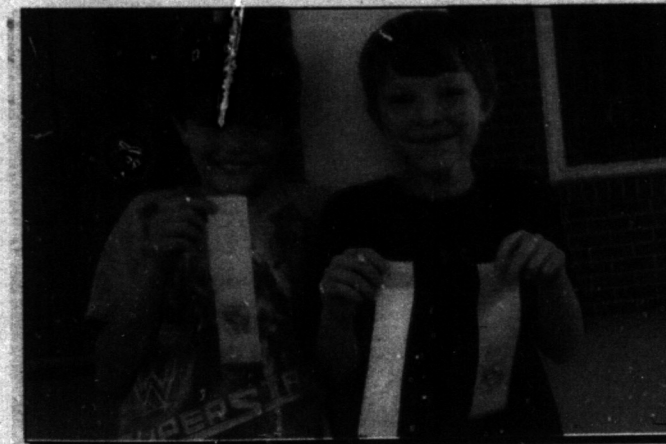
8. First Church, Philadelphia



9. Buckles and George



10. Twin Lakes Church, Madison



11. Sprayberry and Patterson



12. Deaton, Palmer, and East

9. First Church, Vicksburg, recognized Shirley George for 15 years of service as ministry assistant May 15. Shown are George and pastor Matt Buckles.

10. Twin Lakes Church, Madison, held a baby dedication Mother's Day. Shown, back, is pastor Hugh Smith; from left, Colby Jackson with parents Sam and Jill Jackson and Will; Robert with parents Alan and Belinda Carter; and Trey with parents Traci and Mike McLendon and Kaylyn.

11. Nicolas Sprayberry and Patrick Patterson of Freney Church, Carthage, participated in RA Day at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Both won first place in the race car competition for their age group, and Patterson placed 4th overall. Shown are the two boys.

12. During a presentation at Meadowood Church, Amory, Amory Boy Scout Troop 55 Life Scout Aaron Palmer received two religious awards, the God and Life Award and the Four Star Recipient Award. Shown with Palmer, center, are minister of youth Casey Deaton (left) and Baptists for Scouting Member Van East, Jr. (right). Palmer began work toward the God and Life award in 2004 and is only the fourth boy to earn this award in the state, and only 195 boys received this award nationwide in 2010.

13. Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas, visited the Baptist Children's Village in Coldwater May 7 and worked in the flower beds and cleaned out around the ponds. They also took donations of cleaning supplies and hanging flower baskets to the mothers for Mother's Day. Shown are some of the participants.

14. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, held a baby dedication on Mother's Day. Shown are Tony and Elisha Moree and baby Emma; Howie and Amanda Martin and baby Josy; and James and Hayley Blansett and baby JonConner.

15. John Price, pastor of First Church, Charleston, had his hair spray painted pink in recognition of the youth raising \$1250 toward their trip to Centrifuge this summer.

16. First Church, Batesville, recognized its high school graduates May 15. Shown are Ashley Roberson, Zach Cole, Haley Beth Allen, Brett Frazier (student pastor), Mary Catherine Lloyd, Kristen Cosby, Noel Hawkins, Thomas Campbell, and Mitchell Babb.



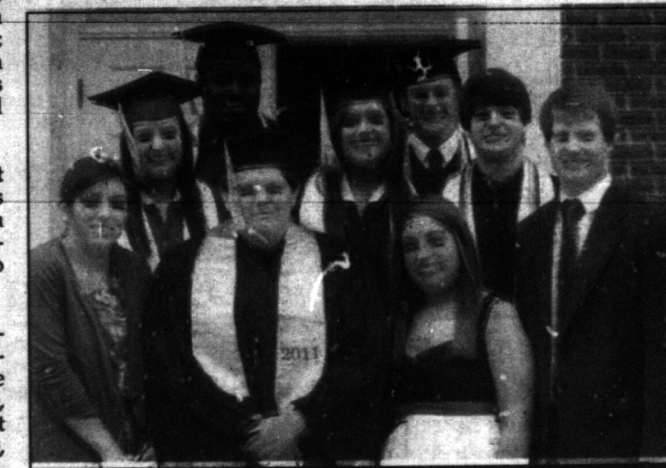
13. Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas



14. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



15. Price



16. First Church, Batesville



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Edgefield Church, Attala Association



3. Peavy and Hill



4. McGee and Richardson



1. Derma Church, Derma, is hosting Jason Crabb in concert July 15, Calhoun Academy Gymnasium, 7 p.m. For more information, call (662) 628-5595.
2. Edgefield Church, Attala Association, recognized the oldest and youngest mothers on Mother's Day. Shown are pastor Walter Hines, Sue Jennings, oldest mother, and Angel Wilkinson, youngest mother.
3. Roundaway Church, Doddsville, licensed Jop Peavy to the ministry May 15. Shown are Peavy and pastor Bob Hill.
4. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recognized all mothers on Mother's Day. Rowena McGee, oldest mother with most children present; Helen Richardson, oldest mother present; Heather Buitt, youngest mother; Hal Hatten, pastor. Shown are McGee and Richardson.
5. Branch Church, Morton, participated in Mission Madness at Hickory Church. Eighty children from area churches participated. Shown are participants from Branch.
6. The preschool choir of Freeny Church, Carthage, sang during the music programs at the church on Palm Sunday. Shown are the participants.
7. First Church, Fannin, ordained Jeff Giles as deacon. Shown are Tony Bales, Giles, and pastor Ron Bird.



5. Branch Church, Morton



6. Freeny Church, Carthage



7. Giles ordination

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Coila Church, Coila: Homecoming, June 5; Slaton Family, singing, at 1:30 p.m. after lunch. Revival, June 6 - 10, 7 p.m.; Melvin Mordecai, speaker; Billy Blakely, pastor.
2. Liberty Church, Carrollton: Homecoming, June 5, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and singing afterwards. Marvin Turnipseed, speaker.
3. Indian Springs Church, Perry County: Homecoming, June 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; special guests, Lynn Holderfield Sumrall, Stacy Holderfield, and families. Chuck Terrell, pastor.
4. Philadelphia Church, Wesson: Homecoming, June 12; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Matt Buckles, speaker.
5. Eden Church, Yazoo City: Revival, June 12 - 15; Sun., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Johnny Busby, pastor.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Enterprise Church, Enterprise



12. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



13. Sutherland licensing



14. Mt. Pleasant, Gloster

8. Salem Church, Lauderdale County, honored Thomas Jewell Wood upon 70 years of service. He has pastored Salem for the last ten years.
9. First Church, Pearl, is hosting a gospel singing jubilee June 11, 6:30 p.m., featuring Terry Joe Terrell, Tim Frith & Gospel Echoes, Jason Boone Band, Allen Harris, and Naomi Barnett. \$5 suggested admission plus love offering.
10. Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven, is having a dedication of their new Family Life Center June 12, 10:45 a.m. Covered dish lunch following the dedication. Randy Lewman, speaker.
11. The children and preschool choirs of Enterprise Church, Enterprise, performed the play, Splash Kingdom, May 22. Shown are the participants.
12. Bovina Church, Vicksburg, held a baby dedication on Mother's Day. Shown are the participants.
13. Macedonia Church, Lebanon Association, licensed Brett Sutherland to the gospel ministry May 8. He serves as minister of music. Shown are interim pastor Daniel Caldwell, Sutherland, and Roy Blackwell.
14. Mt. Pleasant Church, Gloster, broke ground for their new fellowship hall. Shown are the participants.



## CD or IRA Maturing?

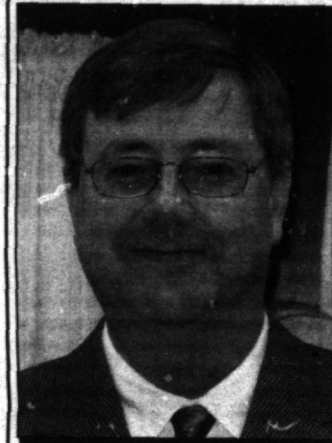
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## COLLEGE NEWS

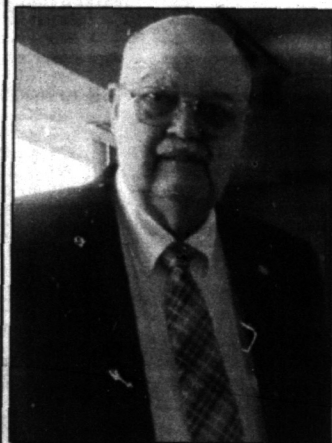
1. Jim Everett has been honored as 2011 Distinguished Professor of the Year at Mississippi College. Everett has been the director of Graduate Studies in the English Department for more than a decade and is an Auburn University alumnus.
2. Ginger Robbins has joined the Mississippi College staff as registrar. She comes from a similar post at Hinds Community College.
3. Steve McCraney, a Clinton resident who is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, has been named as new director of the Department of Public Safety at Mississippi College.
4. Donald Eugene Winters, professor of music and chair of Winters School of Music at William Carey University, is retiring after 32 years service, and Donald Renfro, student support services coordinator and counselor, is retiring after ten years. A reception honoring Winters and Renfro was held in the Lucile Parker Gallery on April 28. Tommy King, president of WCU, presented both men with an inscribed clock as a token of appreciation for their years of loyal and dedicated service to the university.



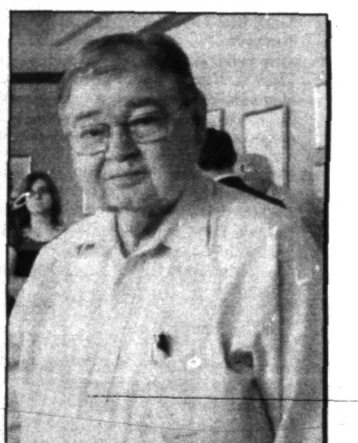
1. Everett



2. Robbins



4a. Winters



4b. Renfro

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch: June 13 - 17, 9 a.m. - noon; 4 years - 8th grade; June 12, commissioning service for teachers, 10:30 a.m.; registration and activities, 5 p.m.
2. Roundaway Church, Doddsville: June 5 - 10, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; meal furnished; kickoff rally, June 4, 3 - 5 p.m.
3. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: June 13 - 17, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; commencement, June 17, 7 p.m.; age 3 - 6th grade. Youth VBS, June 12 after evening worship, and June 13 - 16, 5 - 8 p.m. Melane Crosby and Amy Burt, directors; Ronnye Hart, youth director; Hal Hatten, pastor.

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## STAFF CHANGES

1. Baxterville Church, Lumberton, has called Joshua Warren as youth minister. His wife is Mollie Warren.
2. Pineview Church, Clinton, has called Michael Estes as youth minister. He comes from First Church, Lexington.

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MARCH 2011

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### APRIL 2011

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Elizabeth Long  
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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### What Do You Own?

1 Chronicles 29:10-20

By Beth S. Bowman

There is an old poem about preschoolers that explains how they view the world. "What's mine is mine. What's yours is mine. It's all mine!" It certainly defines the egocentric nature of the younger set in our society. Basically, they believe that the world and everything in it belongs to them.

Thankfully, as adults, we have come to a better understanding of ownership. In this four lesson unit, we will be challenged to rethink our values and priorities in relation to possessions and materialism.

This Sunday's lesson in 1 Chronicles 29 set the stage for a greater understanding. David's Prayer of Praise is a powerful message about thankfulness, priorities and ownership. Prior to the focal passage, David testifies about sacrifice of his personal

wealth and challenged the people to give in a similar manner. He then goes on to be a shining example of his sacrifice of valuable possessions for the building of the temple. He then issued a challenge in verse 5, "Who then will offer willingly consecrating himself to the Lord?" (ESV) The leaders responded with generous offerings and precious metals to the treasury of the house of the Lord. The people rejoiced over the response.

In front of all the assembly, David began praising the Lord and proclaiming His power, glory, majesty, and confessing God's ownership of the whole earth and its riches.

David shows us three right responses to acknowledging God as owner of all:

### Worship

In the beginning, in verse ten, what does David do?



Bowman

"David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly." (ESV) He stopped, he acknowledged, he worshipped. Worship is a natural outgrowth of a grateful heart. I love how David again leads the assembly. He is the

first to worship and his leadership sets the stage for people to follow. The assembly responds in verse 20, "And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their Fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and the king." (ESV) Again we see David's leadership emulated by the people. Great leaders give an example that can be followed. Their walk matches their talk. They are worthy of imitation.

### Obedience

Verse 17 states, "I know my God that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart, I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people offering freely and joyously to you." (ESV) David reflects his understanding of God's blessings as ultimately being opportunities for

His children to demonstrate obedient stewardship. I know a family at my church that lives like this. They live each day dedicated to God their time, energy, focus and money. It's not just one member of the family who serve God wholeheartedly, it's the whole group. Their home, their cars, their financial resources—all belong to God. It's not a big deal for this family to take in an extra student who needs a home, to prepare lunch on Sunday for hungry interns or to invest countless dollars in foreign missions. And it's all done with a focus on the eternal. Their belief in God's right ownership is the driving force in all decisions. These families of believers change the earlier poem about ownership to, "If it's mine, it's God's. If it's yours, it's God's, it all belongs to God." Thank-you, Willsons, for being the kind of leaders worthy of imitation.

Verse 17 states, "I know my God that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart, I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people offering freely and joyously to you." (ESV) David reflects his understanding of God's blessings as ultimately being opportunities for

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Accept Your Commission

Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19

By Harold Simmons

We begin a new series of lessons this Sunday entitled "Anchored in Faith". These lessons are from the Old Testament books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. Scholars have named Jeremiah as the human author of both books which came in a time of great turmoil. There was either a war, occupation armies or armies passing through the land. It did not make any difference which was happening, there was great danger and disruption of life. It is no wonder that the people needed an anchor to which they could hold. They needed a stationary reference to know where they were. In the cockpit of an airplane is an instrument called the artificial horizon. That instrument lets you know your orientation if you cannot see the ground. It tells

you if you are flying right side up, climbing or descending. It helps the pilot know exactly the attitude of the aircraft and helps him stay oriented. The pilot can fly with assurance that is exactly what the people of Jeremiah's day needed. The circumstance of Jeremiah's day was different from our time but the need is the same. "Lord give us something to hold to—a direction to live with assurance."

### Jeremiah's Commission (Jeremiah 1:4-6)

God explained to Jeremiah that He had a commission for Jeremiah. It was something that just did not happen one day. Rather it was something that began before Jeremiah was born—before I formed you in the womb, I set you apart (HCSB). God had determined before Jeremiah was born what He wanted him to



Simmons

do. He gave him a commission or responsibility. Today we would say that God was calling Jeremiah to do His work, His ministry. It is interesting that the word for "congregation" in the Old Testament and the word for "church" in the New Testament both mean the "called out ones." In both words is the idea that people are called out—set apart—for a special purpose that God has determined. God calls out His people and gives them a commission to do His work. God has called us out, not just to bring salvation to our lives but also to service for Him.

### Jeremiah Empowered (Jeremiah 1:7-10)

Not only did God call (commission) Jeremiah as a prophet, He also empowered him for the job ahead. God helped Jeremiah emotionally by telling him that he should think more highly of himself—do not say, I am only a youth (HCSB). God encouraged

Jeremiah by telling him that he need not fear anyone because He would deliver/rescue him if needed. God gave confidence and He gave His power by His touch. There is also an underlying idea of intimacy by the touch of His hand. This is intensely personal.

Today, we talk about having a personal relationship with God's Son. That is possible because He has touched our hearts and wants an ongoing relationship with us. God's Holy Spirit will empower us to live in that kind of relationship.

### Jeremiah Assured and Given Resources (Jeremiah 1:11-14, 17-19)

Again, God speaks to Jeremiah to assure him by giving him a clear picture of what is ahead for him to do. Jeremiah is shown that judgment is ahead for his people and that the judgment of God will come pouring down from the people of the north. This judgment is not far off in time for God tells Jeremiah to act now—"Now, Get ready. Stand up and tell them everything

that I command you" (HCSB). Though the time is short, God always gives time for people to make a change in their hearts before judgment befalls them. God gives us time to have a life changing experience. Again and again, God speaks to our hearts of what is ahead if we do not trust Him through His Son, Jesus. This is so important that it needs immediate attention and action on our part.

Immediately, God gives Jeremiah the resources he needs for this monumental task. God has made Jeremiah like a fortified city with durable bronze walls. He is like an iron pillar. Any attack on him or his message will meet with strong resistance—a resistance that would be very costly for the one attacking. It will be a losing situation for the attacker.

God gives each person a will to do with what we want. But to go against God is a losing situation.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



## SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT SHOWCASES YOUNG MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS' ORATORICAL TALENT

**STATEWIDE PARTICIPANTS** - Mississippi Baptists who brought their public speaking skills to the annual 2011 Speakers Tournament include (from left) Lakelyn Taylor of First Church, Long Beach, representing Gulf Coast Association; Alex Hendry of Eastview Church, Laurel, representing Jones Association; Macy Watkins of Pine Grove Church, Hickory Flat, representing Benton-Tippah Association; Mary Ann McCarty of Highland Church, Meridian, representing Lauderdale Association; Morgan Gaughf of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association; Gabrielle Horton of Union Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association; Alanna Tedder of Midway Church, Meridian, representing Lauderdale Association; Sara DeLee of First Church, McComb, representing Pike Association; Karleigh Maze of Broadmoor Church, Madison, representing Metro Association; Sarah Knight of First Church, Batesville, representing Panola Association; and Kasy Ates of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**WINNERS**

**FINALISTS** - Mississippi Baptists who were tapped as finalists in the 2011 Speakers Tournament include (from left) Kasy Ates of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association; Karleigh Maze of Broadmoor Church, Madison, representing Metro Association; Sara DeLee of First Church, McComb, representing Pike Association; Morgan Gaughf of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association; Mary Ann McCarty of Highland Church, Meridian, representing Lauderdale Association; and ) Lakelyn Taylor of First Church, Long Beach, representing Gulf Coast Association. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

**WINNERS** - Finalists who were selected for the top four positions at the 2011 Speakers Tournament include (from left): Morgan Gaughf of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, representing Rankin Association - second place; Mary Ann McCarty of Highland Church, Meridian, representing Lauderdale Association - first place; Karleigh Maze of Broadmoor Church, Madison, representing Metro Association - third place; and Sara DeLee of First Church, McComb, representing Pike Association - fourth place. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**FINALISTS**



**STATEWIDE PARTICIPANTS**

## End time predictions drive away Family Radio supporters

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Richard Rodriguez remembers Family Radio fondly. Growing up in the 1980s, he tuned in to the Christian network during his tumultuous teenage years. "Back then, Family Radio gave free broadcasting time to local churches for on-air Bible studies and devotionals," Rodriguez recalled. "I found comfort and inspiration."

In the early 1990s, he began to tune out when the network began reporting that 1994 would be the end of the world. Harold Camping, the man behind the recent May 21 false prophecy, made the 1994 prediction, too.

"I got sick and tired of muting the radio whenever those segments came on," Rodriguez said. "Convicted by the Lord, I just couldn't keep listening to music if the teaching is going

sour. So I made the difficult decision of shutting off my local Family Radio."

The false teachings of Family Radio President Harold Camping also compelled Olivebridge, N.Y., affiliate WFSO to abandon the Family Radio broadcasting fold. "Once Camping started saying God was done with all the churches and Satan ruled all the churches, we immediately covered up those segments of false teaching," said Dan Elmendorf, who runs WFSO from his home.

He said that it was a tough decision to start declining Family Radio's funding and discontinuing its programming, but added, "We had no choice."

The decision for WFSO to go it alone was affirmed by one of Camping's employees. "Someone inside Family Radio shared with us that he felt there

was no reform possible to that ministry," Elmendorf said.

In 1993, according to Elmendorf, a group of pastors approached Camping in the spirit of Matthew 18:16 ("If he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established").

"Harold refused to repent of his public sin," Elmendorf said, adding that Camping pushed vocal dissenters out of Family Radio. "He's basically surrounded himself only with people that agree with him."

Meanwhile, details of where Family Radio's millions of dollars it receives in donations goes is kept private, even from board members. Insiders tell Elmendorf that there are big pet projects in Africa and millions poured into TV programs. After the spending spree lead-

ing up to May 21, there are reports that Family Radio is now left with only three months of operating budget. Calls to Family Radio controller Gary Cook went unanswered.

Elmendorf believes that change at Family Radio can only happen if employees and board members wrest control from Camping. Elmendorf stays in touch with many of Camping's current 225 employees and said that the majority do not agree with Camping's teaching, but many are older and afraid they won't find work if they leave.

"People must pay the price and lose their job if they understand the truth," said Gordon Lewis, senior professor of Christian theology and philosophy at Denver Seminary.

He avoids labeling Camping and Family Radio a cult. "I don't bash people with a pejorative

word. I want to help people understand the Gospel of Christ, in faith alone," he said.

As for radio stations that desire to leave Family Radio and make the switch to Redeemer Broadcasting, Elmendorf said that an infrastructure has been built so that these stations can easily plug-and-play with the new network.

Meanwhile, another ministry has made a one million dollar bid to purchase Family Radio and its 66 affiliated stations. The Christian Post reports that A Bible Answer, which made a similar proposal earlier this year, has offered to assume ownership on Oct. 22 — the day after Camping's latest prediction for the end of the world.

Editor's note: Reprinted courtesy of World News Service. Edited for length.